Wiley, Walter

May 1918

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609
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May 24th, 1918

Walter Wiley, Esq.,
"Ardwold", Toronto.

Dear Mr. Wiley:

In Ottawa this week I saw first Mr. Preadner and then Sir Thomas White with regard to the proposed bequest of Sir John and Lady Eaton to the University. I put as strongly as I could the case in treating the proposed bequest on the same ground as gifts to the Patriotic Fund, and though both gentlemen gave me a very careful hearing and were very sympathetic, and Sir Thomas himself spoke in the warmest terms of the magnificence of the gift, yet they were unwilling to make any concession in regard to the matter. They told me that already they have had many requests for a similar ruling with regard to large gifts to the Toronto Hospitals, and if the principle of the Act were once broken through they would be overwhelmed by requests from all quarters. I endeavoured to show them that this was really a patriotic work, inasmuch as the University had placed its services at the call of the Militia Department and had done an enormous amount of work not only through its staff but in the preparation of medical work. However, they were both obdurate, and I do not think that any further modification of the Act will be made. In these circumstances it remains for Sir John and Lady Eaton to determine when they are willing to make public their proposal. I have been pestered by newspapers but have told them that I have nothing to give, and that as soon as

I have any information the papers will receive what will be of public interest. I judge, however, that rumour has been busy, though apparently it is not always connected with Sir John Eaton's name.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.